



## WELCOME FROM OUR LOWER SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, MICHELLE ERIKSEN



In our Early Childhood and Lower School, you will find children from the UK and around the world. They have a range of backgrounds, interests, and abilities, and bring with them countless talents. With such a rich mixture of students, it is inevitable that our children receive an education beyond reading, writing and arithmetic. Internationalism is part of our school culture, and we recognise and celebrate diversity in many ways.

Our curriculum is based on sound educational practices that reflect our beliefs, and we strive to differentiate instruction to meet each child's needs and learning styles through small classes and a well-balanced curriculum. Our teaching is interactive, engaging students in the acquisition of key skills and in making sense of ideas. We encourage students to apply what they learn so they think critically, solve problems, and become self-directed learners, and we empower them to set and achieve meaningful goals for themselves.

Our primary curriculum prepares students well for studies in Middle and High School. In our upper divisions at ACS Hillingdon, we offer the IB Middle Years and IB Diploma programmes, as well as the American Curriculum (High School Diploma and Advanced Placement courses). Together these provide a complete framework for education that benefits all our students. We believe that children who join us at an early age are best prepared to succeed in their ongoing education because we provide a foundation that continues to drive learning through the upper years and into university and future careers.

Change is inevitable, and since joining ACS Hillingdon in 1992, I have, of course, witnessed change. What has not changed, however, is the overwhelming and consistent parental feedback that indicates we are a warm, welcoming community. This is important to us and underpins our success in developing each child's confidence and academic potential to the full. We are proud of our children and their achievements.

### Admissions

Tel: +44 (0)1895 818402  
Fax: +44 (0)1895 818404  
Email: [hillingtonadmissions@acs-england.co.uk](mailto:hillingtonadmissions@acs-england.co.uk)  
Web: [www.acs-england.co.uk](http://www.acs-england.co.uk)

### EARLY CHILDHOOD (AGES 4-6)

Children enter school at various stages of social, emotional, physical and academic development. We believe it is vital to nourish natural enthusiasm for learning and build confidence and self-esteem. We develop our pupils' confidence in communicating ideas to others through developmentally appropriate activities in speaking, listening, reading and writing. In addition we know that play is a powerful tool for learning. Play activities encourage exploration and experimentation, spark curiosity and imagination, build children's abilities to solve problems, and provide opportunities to experiment with language and work cooperatively with others.

### LOWER SCHOOL (AGES 6-10)

As independent thinkers and learners, our pupils are encouraged to think both critically and creatively in a spirit of cooperation and open-minded enquiry. We believe in the value of teaching through integrated units. Research shows us that learning is better understood and retained longer if children see connections and relevance in learning. In addition to literacy and numeracy, our Lower School curriculum also includes instruction in science, history, geography, art, music, physical education, library skills, information technology, language and culture (grades 1-3), and Spanish (grade 4).

### WHAT MAKES ACS HILLINGDON THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR YOUR CHILD?

- Strong academic focus with instruction to meet each child's needs
- Student self-awareness of strengths, weaknesses and learning styles
- Experienced teachers who are passionate about teaching and the development of children
- Culturally rich learning environment
- High behavioural expectations
- Warm, welcoming community with close communication and support between school and home
- Happy, confident and secure children
- Small class sizes
- Attractive grounds and spacious facilities
- Highly regarded English as an Additional Language (EAL) programme
- Outstanding IT facilities, including interactive whiteboards in every classroom

Our teachers are recruited from national and international school systems. They are all experienced and qualified, with about half holding Masters degrees. We encourage them to stay current by providing an ongoing, robust programme of professional development that we believe translates into student achievement. Research says that teaching ability is also a key determiner of student achievement, and I am surrounded by an experienced team of teachers with amazing energy, proficiency, and dedication. It is the quality of our teaching that brings our programmes to life and makes a difference with each child.

### HEALTHY LIVING

Healthy bodies need good food and plenty of exercise. Our school's cafeteria serves balanced meals of fresh, nutritious food prepared on-site. We know that fresh air and exercise impact children's learning, too, resulting in students who are more focused; our well-balanced curriculum includes physical education classes and outdoor play.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD & LOWER SCHOOL CLASSES AND FEES FOR 2009/10

Pre-Kindergarten	Ages 4-5	£4,240
Kindergarten	Ages 5-6	£7,080
Grades 1 – 2	Ages 6-8	£7,370
Grades 3 – 4	Ages 8–10	£7,395

School fees, per semester (two semesters) are as above, and are payable by semester in advance.

